

nurses sign an agreement to serve the hospital for four years, but only receive two years' training in the wards. In the agreement which each probationer at the London Hospital is required to sign, she states: "I distinctly understand that I am entering upon a four years' engagement for the full term of two years' training in the London Hospital, and for two years' service on the Private Nursing or the General Staff of the Hospital as the Matron may require." As the charges for the nurses' services when private nursing are £2 2s. a week and upwards, and they are paid at the rate of £30 the first year and £35 the second, this is a species of indentured labour, by which the London Hospital profits to the extent of many thousands of pounds annually, a system condemned throughout the nursing world. It is the attempt to apply the questionable economics of the London Hospital to the whole nursing profession as exemplified in the Directory Bill to which the trained nurses in the United Kingdom decline to submit.

We have referred at length to these points because the Official Directory of Nurses Bill, drawn up ostensibly by the Central Hospital Council for London, but for which the Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, and Sir Henry Burdett, both members of this Council, are unquestionably mainly responsible, embodies their policy of depriving trained nurses of all power in the management of their own profession.

#### THE BILLS COMPARED.

We will now compare the provisions embodied:—

(1) In the Bill "to Regulate the Qualifications of Trained Nurses, and to provide for their Registration" introduced into the House of Commons on behalf of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, by Mr. Munro Ferguson, and

(2) In the Bill "to provide for the Establishment of an Official Directory of Nurses," introduced into the House of Lords by the Lord Balfour of Burleigh on behalf of the Central Hospital Council for London.

#### MR. MUNRO FERGUSON'S BILL.

This provides for:—

(1) A Central Governing Body composed of various sections of the community, whose interests are involved (a) The Public—that is the patient; (b) the Medical Practitioner, that is, the responsible adviser; and (c) the Nurse, who claims direct and adequate representation on the Governing Body of her own profession.

(2) A minimum standard of training and professional knowledge, the attainment of the latter to be tested by an examination instituted by the Central Governing Body, which would award a certificate or diploma to those nurses who satisfy the examiners of their efficiency.

(3) The publication of a Register of the names and addresses of those who have gained this qualification.

(4) Power to maintain professional discipline by the Governing Body, the interests of the Registered Nurses being safeguarded by provision that notice of the conduct imputed to a registered nurse shall be given to him or her, and an opportunity afforded to the person concerned to give an explanation in writing or in person before suspension or removal from the Register, and further, provision is made that any Registered Nurse aggrieved by a decision of the Council shall have the right of appeal to the High Courts.

#### THE CENTRAL HOSPITAL COUNCIL BILL.

This provides for:—

(1) The establishment of an "Official Directory of Nurses," by an Order in Council, to be controlled by an Official Registrar, assisted by an "Advisory Council," acting as Assessors as opposed to control by a Governing Body on which the class governed shall have adequate representation.

(2) It is not proposed that a minimum standard of training shall be enforced and maintained, but that "every nurse who has received training in nursing at a hospital infirmary, or other institution for the cure of the sick in Great Britain or Ireland, and not being an institution carried on for private gain, shall be entitled, on application to the Registrar, to have his or her name entered in the Directory together with such particulars as shall be prescribed by an Order of His Majesty in Council." This would be a public danger, as the public has not the means of judging of the value of certificates, but would accept the qualifications of nurses whose names were published in a Directory of this character as adequate, whereas they might be very much the reverse. The uselessness of a Directory not based on a previous Registration was ably demonstrated to the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Registration by Sir Victor Horsley and Dr. Langley Browne, the representatives of the British Medical Association.

(3) No test of the nurse's knowledge would be imposed, and therefore no guarantee of efficiency could be given.

(4) The name of any nurse convicted of any offence, specified by an Order in Council, is

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